



## Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and  
**WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 02/12/2016

### 1) COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Town of Greenwood

**STATE:** Maine

**POPULATION SIZE:** 830 (as of 2010 )

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 15.7% (as of 2010)

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Board of Selectmen  
(Chair, Fred Henderson) and Town Manager Kim Sparks

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** 593 Gore Road, Greenwood, Maine 04255

### 2) COMMUNITY CONTACT\* FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

*\* The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work —it is not the responsible AARP staff member.*

**Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly**

**initiative:**

Peter is excited to be Greenwood's community contact for our Age-Friendly program. He is recently retired from the medical field and is looking forward to volunteering and helping our aging residents. Peter has also asked to be appointed on our new Comprehensive Plan committee where he will help incorporate age-friendly programs into our plan.

**(You can add an additional sheet of paper if needed.)**

**3) THE COMMUNITY'S AGE-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES TO DATE**

**Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.**

Greenwood is excited to join our neighboring Town of Bethel in a regional effort to make our communities age-friendly. We work frequently with the Town of Bethel as we share a district school system and work closely on other regional issues. The Town of Bethel functions as the service center for our area residents. We presently offer a few services and programs for our senior population. We appropriate an annual donation to Senior's Plus and Community Concepts. These funds are used to assist our elderly residents with transportation, heating assistance, Medicare counseling, and respite/caregiver support. We appropriate funding to three area Libraries, Bethel, Woodstock and West Paris. This funding allows for a free membership to our residents. All three libraries offer access to computers and the internet. Our local Church and Greenwood Historical Society offer seniors the opportunity to volunteer and be of service to others in the community. The Town is in the beginning planning stages of converting our old Town Hall into a Community Culture and Arts Center. We were recently approved by the State for all of our Main Street to be in a TIF/Arts District. It is our goal to improve sidewalks, parking, lighting along our Main Street for all ages. Our plans also include making our Community Culture and Art Center handicap accessible – installing an elevator so our seniors can get to the second floor and enjoy a concert. We are blessed in Greenwood to have many beautiful ponds and places that one can get out into the wilderness and explore. Maggie's Nature Park is a 60 acre parcel of land that was donated to the Town of Greenwood by Maggie Ring. Maggie asked that we have one trail – the pink trail – an easy trail for old ladies as she put it. The park has several trails including the easy pink trail. The Greenwood Beach is available for seniors who would like to take a dip in South Pond. We have several beachside parking spots allowing easy access. The Town acknowledges that we are an aging community and we are actively working on keeping our aging community a part of each discussion and decision we make going forward. We look forward to working with the Age-Friendly Community Project plans to improve the quality of life for our seniors and provide the services that will allow them to age in Greenwood. The Town of Greenwood will be holding a community meeting for our residents to discuss age friendly issues. If issues unique to Greenwood emerge, they will be noted in the action plan.

**4) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?**

We have started to explore what Greenwood already has to offer in the various domains outlined by AARP and WHO. Comments and ideas will be solicited from individuals and groups to identify the areas that community members believe are in need of particular improvement. This will help us prioritize our efforts on future projects. During September, members of the Age-Friendly Community Project team will approach many community groups to encourage their participation in two community gatherings planned for October. The Team will also send letters to area churches and organizations to inform them of our plans. We are adapting the AARP survey specifically for Greenwood and hope that the information we glean from the results will spark meaningful conversations and impel action.

### **5) CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION**

**Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.**

Greenwood and its neighboring communities are fortunate in hosting organizations that believe strongly in collaboration. In agreement with these groups, we are certain we will be able to develop specific projects to accomplish our mission. The Age-Friendly Community Project will focus specifically on the needs of our seniors. However, we will also form partnerships with organizations whose mission may be to provide healthy food, access to affordable housing, transportation, or any of the other topics covered by the "domains." These coordinated efforts will, in the end, make Bethel a more livable community for all its citizens. We believe that many of the resources needed are already here. We just need to identify them, make the citizens aware of their availability, and build on what we already have.